

11/10/20

The Public Service Commission of South Carolina

Attn: Ms. Belser

101 Executive Center Drive, Suite 100

Columbia, SC 29210

Dear Ms. Belser:

I am writing in regards to Docket No. 219-290-WS, where Blue Granite Water is again proposing to raise residential rates for its customers. I have reduced my water usage over the last few months and yet my water (primarily sewage) bill continues to climb (see attached bill with graphic showing water useage vs. billing). I have written in the past stating that it is fair for a private company to make a profit, but this borders on gouging customers. I have lived in several homes in Dorchester county during a period of over 30 years using both privately-provided water/sewer and "city"-provided water/sewer. During that time, I never had water/sewer bills approaching what Blue Granite currently charges.

I do not believe that Blue Granite has "made their case" for increased rates and I respectfully request you deny their proposal for this rate increase and future increases.

Thank you


Jeffrey C Butler

2 Encl:

1. Notice Regarding Changes in Rates
2. Water/Sewer Bill

NOTICE REGARDING CHANGES IN RATES**Docket No. 2019-290-WS****Application of Blue Granite Water Company for Approval of an
Adjustment in Rate Schedules and an Increase in Rates**

On September 30, 2019, Blue Granite Water Company ("Blue Granite") filed with the Public Service Commission of South Carolina ("Commission") an application requesting authority to adjust its rate schedules and to increase its rates. This rate request was necessary due to recent major capital projects needed to improve service to customers, increases in costs for third-party purchased water and wastewater treatment, increases in property taxes related to capital investment, and updates to depreciation rates. The Company has invested approximately \$23 million in its water and wastewater infrastructure since the last rate case, which was filed in November 2017 and effective in June 2018.

Blue Granite requested additional annual revenues of \$4,744,305 resulting from third-party purchased water and wastewater treatment and \$6,987,498 resulting primarily from investments in infrastructure needed to serve customers, for a total requested annual revenue increase of \$11,731,803. The Commission held six Public Night Hearings throughout South Carolina, as follows: January 27, 2020 in Lexington; January 30, in Irmo; February 3, 2020 in Union; February 13, 2020 in Greenville; February 27, 2020 in Columbia, and March 5, 2020 in York. A merits hearing was held on February 26-March 2, 2020.

On April 9, 2020, in Order No. 2020-306, the Commission approved increases to water and sewer rates. Due to ongoing concerns resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, Blue Granite voluntarily requested to delay the effective date of the rate increase until September 1, 2020. After a clarification and reconsideration process requested by Blue Granite and the Office of Regulatory Staff ("ORS"), the Commission issued a directive order ("Reconsideration Order") on May 28, 2020 revising the approved rate increase. Following the issuance of the Reconsideration Order, on June 8, 2020, Blue Granite filed a motion with the Commission which provided the Commission with notice of the Company's intent to put rates into effect under bond, as authorized by S.C. Code Ann. § 58-5-240. This results in an increase in revenues for Water Service Territory 1 of \$2,608,739, for Water Service Territory 2 of \$951,850, and for Consolidated Sewer of \$4,035,358, resulting in an overall increase of \$7,595,947.

Blue Granite will also be providing customers with a one-time credit of \$10.59 for each water account and sewer account, which will appear on each customer's first bill after the September 1, 2020 effective date.

COVID-19

As of March 10, 2020, Blue Granite suspended late fees for past-due balances and also stopped issuing disconnection orders for non-pay customers. Although the Commission issued an order on May 14, 2020 that utility companies could resume late fees and disconnections for non-payment, the Company has committed to extend the waivers of late fees and disconnections for non-payment through the end of 2020. The Company will provide notice directly to customers when it intends to resume these collections activities, allowing customers ample time to contact Blue Granite and discuss payment options.

The Company is offering and strongly recommends that customers establish deferred payment arrangements and payment plans should they be unable to stay current on their water and sewer bills during the COVID-19 pandemic and wish to manage any outstanding balances. The Company encourages customers to establish payment plans or payment arrangements according to their needs, and such plans/arrangements may be established for up to a 12-month period. Please contact Blue Granite at 800-367-4314 if you have questions or concerns with your account balance.

Please see below the summary of rate changes for each customer, effective September 1, 2020. Customers may view electronic copies of the Commission's orders and other public filing documents for this Docket at the following Commission website.

<https://dms.psc.sc.gov/Web/Dockets/Detail/117247>

Water - Service Territory 1

A 53% INCREASE

Residential Service	Customer Type	Current Rate	Proposed Rate	Effective Rate
Base Facilities Charge (per unit)	All Customers	\$14.38	\$22.09	\$14.38
Commodity Charge (per 1,000 gallons)	Water Supply	\$5.59	\$8.59	\$8.70
	Water Distribution	\$7.55	\$11.60*	\$11.76
Average Total Bill (at 4,600 gallons of usage)	Water Supply	\$40.09	\$61.60	\$54.40
	Water Distribution	\$49.11	\$75.45	\$68.48

*Blue Granite requested a split of Commodity Charges into a Purchased Water Charge and a Distribution Charge for Water Distribution customers of \$6.85 and \$4.75, respectively.

Water - Service Territory 2

Residential Service	Customer Type	Current Rate	Proposed Rate	Effective Rate
Base Facilities Charge (per unit)	All Customers	\$28.59	\$38.58	\$28.59
Commodity Charge (per 1,000 gallons)	Water Supply	\$10.27	\$13.86	\$13.28
	Water Distribution	\$11.85	\$15.99*	\$15.33
Average Total Bill (at 3,900 gallons of usage)	Water Supply	\$68.64	\$92.66	\$80.38
	Water Distribution	\$74.81	\$100.94	\$88.38

*Blue Granite requested a split of Commodity Charges into a Purchased Water Charge and a Distribution Charge for Water Distribution customers of \$11.01 and \$4.98, respectively.

Consolidated Sewer

A 56% INCREASE

Residential Service	Customer Group	Current Rate	Proposed Rate	Effective Rate
Collection & Treatment	Residential (per unit)	\$65.08	\$101.30	\$88.01
	Mobile Home (per unit)	\$47.50	\$73.94	\$64.24
Collection Only	Residential (per unit)	\$65.08	\$101.30*	\$88.01
	The Village (per unit)	\$33.86	\$52.71	\$45.79

*Blue Granite requested a split of the Base Charge into a Collection Charge and a Treatment Charge for Collection Only customers of \$47.10 and \$54.20, respectively.

Account Number:**Name:** JEFFREY BUTLER**Phone:** (843) 324-5688**Service Address:** 478 SMALLWOOD DR, CHAPIN, SC, 29036**Bill Date:** 10/31/2020**Due Date:** 11/25/2020**Please Pay:** \$98.30**blue granite**
water companySM**Customer Service:** (800) 367-4314**Collections:** (800) 367-4314

www.bluegranitewaterco.com

Meter Information

Service Type	Start Read	Start Date	End Read	End Date	Total Usage	Days in Cycle	Avg Daily Use	Constant
	0			43540				

Bill Details**Activity Since Last Bill**

Previous Balance

\$77.37

Payments received as of 10/31/2020

-\$77.37

Balance as of 10/31/2020

\$0.00

Residential Water Service

Water Base Charge

\$14.38

590 gallons at \$8.37 per 1,000 gallons

\$4.94

Safe Drinking Water Act Fee

\$0.73

Total Residential Water Service

\$20.05

Residential Wastewater Service

Wastewater Service

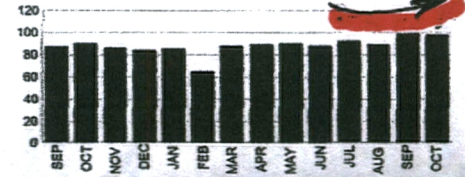
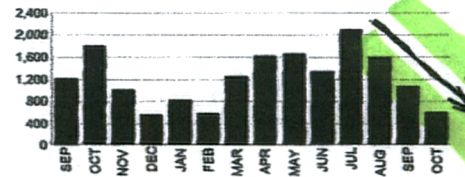
\$78.25

Total Residential Wastewater Service

\$78.25

Total Due Amount**\$98.30**

EXCESSIVE!

Billing History
in dollars**Consumption History for Water**
in GAL**Message Center**

Per SC PSC Order 2020-306 in Docket 2019-290-WS, each water and sewer customer is receiving a one-time credit in the amount \$10.69 on September bills, due to the lower corporate tax rate resulting from the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA).

THIS GRAPHIC SHOWS
THERE IS A REAL PROBLEM
WITH BLUE GRANITE'S
RATE STRUCTURE

*While we've suspended disconnections to help those who are facing financial hardships, we encourage you to continue to pay your bill as you normally would, if able. This will help you avoid a larger balance later. Make check payable to: Blue Granite Water Company. Rate Schedules are available upon request. Visit www.bluegranitewaterco.com for important account offerings



PO Box 160609

Altamonte Springs, FL 32716-0609

Due Date: 11/25/2020**Please Pay:** \$98.30**Paid****Autopay**

JEFFREY BUTLER
478 SMALLWOOD DR
CHAPIN, SC 29036

Blue Granite Water Company
PO BOX 11025
LEWISTON ME 04243-9476

☐ Address correction requested on back